

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
2/4/13 – 2/18/13**

DISTRICT 1

CO Dave Painter worked a snowmobile patrol in Iron County. Good compliance was found for trail permit and registrations. One subject was ticketed for failure to purchase a trail permit.

CO Marvin Gerlach reports that a snowmobiler has died in Menominee County. A 24 year old male subject was killed when his snowmobile struck a tree while traveling down the frozen surface of a river. The investigation is ongoing.

CO Jason Wicklund assisted the local police department with a snowmobile event held in the city of Caspian. CO Wicklund worked the state snowmobile trail system in the area, with no incidents related to the snowmobile event.

CO Dave Painter and Jason Wicklund worked a snowmobile patrol in Iron County. Violations addressed in the patrol included failure to purchase trail permits, operating unregistered snowmobiles and failing to stop at road crossings.

CO Brian Bacon contacted a group of anglers fishing a remote Dickinson County lake. A check of one angler found he was fishing with more than the legal three lines. The angler was also in possession of a bass during the closed season. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

CO Mike Evink contacted two subjects fishing on a lake in Schoolcraft County. They both had many extra tip-ups set out. They explained that the fishing was very slow and they didn't expect to see a CO at that lake in the middle of the day on a Thursday, so they took the chance. They accepted their tickets gracefully.

CO Mike Evink contacted an angler on the ice with six tip-ups. When asked about a license, he advised he did not have one. He went on to say his son would be right back and that the son was a tribal member and was allowed to have all six tip-ups. When the son arrived a short time later, CO Evink found that the son was not a tribal member and did indeed have a Michigan fishing license. The father was ticketed for fishing without a license.

CO Mike Hammill responded to a call for help at a snowmobile accident in Luce County. The CO assisted with first aid until further help arrived. Investigation continues as to the cause of the accident.

CO Jeff Panich was conducting a snowmobile patrol when two snowmobiles raced to an intersection posted with a stop sign, and blew through the intersection without slowing down. Upon contact the reckless duo were issued tickets. Afterward, a subject approached the CO and thanked him for his service and explained that these two subjects have done the same thing in the past.

COs Kyle Publiski and Jeff Panich teamed up with tribal conservation officers and conducted an ice fishing patrol on Sugar Island. Although the day proved to be a little on the slow side, they found 15 unattended fishing lines. They tracked the wayward anglers to a cabin over a mile away. The subjects claimed that they could see and monitor the tip-ups from that distance, but when asked why they didn't see the officers on scene they couldn't come up with a good excuse. Tickets issued for unattended lines.

CO Brett Gustafson received a complaint that a subject from out of state was hunting with resident hunting licenses. An investigation was conducted and it was found that the subject was illegally obtaining resident hunting licenses and that he also illegally obtained a State of Michigan ID. The fraudulent activity cost the people of the State of Michigan well over \$1000. The CO obtained a full confession in an interview with the subject and the case is now being reviewed by the prosecutor, with restitution being sought for the fraudulent purchases.

DISTRICT 3

With adequate ice on most area lakes, ice fishing enforcement patrols are in full swing. Anglers have had mixed success. Tickets for fishing with too many lines, fishing with unattended lines, and fishing without licenses have been issued.

CO Mike Feagan and Sgt. Greg Drogowski, with assistance from the Michigan State Police (MSP) lab, concluded an investigation of an illegally taken bobcat trapped during the closed season. The bobcat was seized and enforcement action taken.

A complaint was received about a subject who has set up cones and signs on the ice of Burt Lake. Responding to the area, COs discovered a skeet shooting range set up on the ice of Burt Lake. The cones, signs and other equipment have been removed and the issue is being addressed.

CO Andrea Albert handled two snowmobile injury accidents this past week on the snowmobile trails. In one incident the operator was traveling too fast for conditions and hit a small snow embankment, lost control and rolled the snowmobile over several times. The driver was transported to the hospital for his injuries and the snowmobile was a total loss. In a second accident the operator hit a deer in the Jordan Valley. The operator had minor injuries and the snowmobile was not drivable. The deer was dispatched at the scene.

While patrolling the snowmobile trails, CO Andrea Albert observed an unusual looking snowmobile trail permit. Closer inspection of the permit revealed the operator had

taken the bottom half of a valid orange trail permit and had written, "SNOW 13" on it in permanent marker. The subject was ticketed for not having a trail permit.

COs Bill Webster and John Skiba patrolled a fishing tournament on Fletchers Floodwater, wrote 16 tickets and issued several warnings. The violations included unregistered ORVs, unregistered snowmobiles, fishing without licenses, and tickets for unattended lines. The lines were unattended for over an hour before the COs contacted the anglers and issued tickets.

CO Bill Webster received a complaint of an angler leaving an unattended line out overnight on Grand Lake, and was able to locate the tip-up. The next morning CO Webster checked the line and found fresh snowmobile tracks at the tip-up and was able to follow them to the north end of the lake. The angler was contacted and ticketed for the violation.

CO Andrea Albert was a first responder to a snowmobile accident in Antrim County which resulted in a fatality. The snowmobile collided head on with a logging truck on a one lane seasonal road. The snowmobile was traveling at a high rate of speed and crested a blind hill colliding head on with the slow moving truck. The operator was pronounced dead at the scene. It is believed alcohol was not a factor in the crash.

DISTRICT 4

CO Carla Soper reported that a subject who took three deer illegally this past deer season was sentenced on his guilty plea. The subject had to reimburse the state \$3,000 for the deer and lost hunting privileges for three years.

CO Jeff Ginn was on snowmobile patrol when he was requested to back up a MSP trooper on a traffic stop. The stopped motorist had an outstanding warrant for his arrest, an expired driver's license and was in possession of controlled substance. The subject was taken into custody and lodged in the Newaygo County Jail.

CO Jeff Ginn assisted with the investigation of a snowmobile personal injury accident that took place near Croton. The operator lost control and was ejected from the snowmobile causing injuries. The operator was transported to a local hospital for treatment.

CO Troy VanGelderren was working a recreational trespassing complaint where subjects were entering private property around a fenced-in location. CO VanGelderren followed tracks on foot and watched several subjects that had trespassed and were fishing. Upon checking the subjects it was determined that they did not possess fishing licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brian Lebel and Mike Wells were working a snowmobile patrol and located two snowmobiles with expired registrations and no trail permits. The owner of the two

snowmobiles had his driver's license revoked and it was discovered that he had failed to transfer ownership on both sleds. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells stopped a snowmobile displaying an expired 2005 registration and no trail permit. CO Wells followed the operator back to a residence and discovered that the owner had failed to transfer ownership as well. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells was checking ice fishing activity on Kimble Lake and observed two subjects tending eight lines. CO Wells contacted the two subjects and obtained identification. A record check revealed that one of the subjects had an outstanding arrest warrant. The subject fled the scene leaving behind his fishing equipment and fishing partner. CO Wells advised the remaining subject that if his friend would turn himself in, the CO would not pursue additional charges. CO Wells met with the wanted subject the next day on the same lake in order to turn himself in. In the meantime, CO Wells confirmed an additional arrest warrant and lodged the subject in the Newaygo County Jail. A ticket was also issued for fishing with too many lines.

DISTRICT 5

COs Bobbi Lively and Chuck McPherson assisted local deputies and fire personnel with a snowmobile personal injury accident in Oscoda County. The accident occurred on the snowmobile trail. Snow depth made access to the area difficult.

COs Mike Hearn and Matt Liestenfeltz were the first on scene of a vehicle fire. A vehicle being towed had caught fire. Officers assisted on the fire and directed traffic until the fire was extinguished.

CO Jason McCullough pulled into an access site just as a vehicle was leaving. He observed tip-ups on the ice with no one around. A few minutes later, one of the flags on a tip-up went off. About 30 minutes later, the vehicle that left upon his arrival returned. Officer McCullough learned that the occupants of the vehicle had set their tip-ups and then went to the store to buy a fishing license, leaving their lines unattended. A ticket was issued.

CO Brian Olsen responded to a snowmobile accident where a subject lost control of her snowmobile and hit a tree while traveling on a county road. The victim died from her injuries. Alcohol and speed are believed to be factors. The investigation continues.

CO Jon Warner stopped a snowmobile on the trails for no trail permit and no registration. The subject had purchased the snowmobile several years prior and never registered it in his own name. A ticket was issued.

CO Brian Olsen and Sgt. Glenn Gutierrez were assisting sheriff's deputies in a search for the owners of two abandoned vehicles on state land when Sgt. Gutierrez observed a pickup truck heading toward the vehicles and come to a stop in the middle of the road. Several occupants got out of the truck and ran into the woods carrying objects and then

came back to their truck empty handed. As luck would have it, the owners of the abandoned vehicles were occupants in the truck. A check of the woods where the subjects had stopped revealed litter in the form of alcoholic beverages and empty cans and bottles. The subjects were minors and were attempting to hide the incriminating evidence. Tickets were issued for littering and minors in possession of alcohol, and the missing owners of the vehicles were located.

DISTRICT 6

While patrolling the frozen lakes in Isabella County, CO Larn R. Strawn contacted an angler and asked to see his fishing license. The angler stated he didn't have his license with him and asked the CO to check over the radio. The CO explained he could certainly check over the radio as long as the angler provided his identification. The subject gave the CO a driver license from another state. The CO checked the non-residency status, which included contacting Game and Fish officials in the other state. The CO discovered that the nonresident had purchased a resident fishing license and hunting licenses, as well as other resident permits, while also purchasing resident licenses in his home state. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Lowell received a call regarding a possible illegal snare set on private land. The CO located an illegal snare that had a coyote caught in it. After pulling the snare, the CO made numerous phone calls attempting to find out who may have set the snare. After a week of talking with local hunters in the area a suspect was found and contact was made. The trapper admitted to setting the illegal snare and tickets were issued.

Central Dispatch in Isabella County put out information that a suspect had advised they were going to level the Beal City High School. CO Jeremy Payne and local deputies responded to the school and provided security. After all the students were secure the CO assisted the deputies with the arrest of the subject.

CO Jeremy Payne received a complaint of two subjects hunting right alongside Highway 127. The CO contacted the hunters and their bleeding beagle. The CO provided first aid to the beagle's torn ear and then discussed the trespassing issue of hunting along the freeway. Further investigation revealed that one of the hunters had his limit of five rabbits. The additional problem was that he did not have a hunting license. Further additional problems were that the hunters had loaded and uncased firearms in their vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

Last week a group patrol was conducted on the Saginaw Bay by COs Dan Lee, Quincy Gowenlock, Jay Person, Joel Lundberg, Phil Hudson, Nick Atkin, Jason Smith, Sgt. Tony Soave and Sgt. Ron Kimmerly. The COs were targeting anglers taking overlimits of walleye. All of the anglers, their snowmobiles, ORVs and shanties were searched. The COs found that compliance was good on all those who were checked, but a call was made from a witness that the word got out and a number of anglers were seen at one of the cracks dumping walleye back into the water.

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly has reported numerous ORVs, snowmobiles and full size vehicles that have recently broken through the ice on a number of different lakes and rivers. All operators should be reminded that operating vehicles and snowmobiles on frozen waters can be extremely dangerous. Operators are responsible for the removal of these vehicles, which can be very expensive. This does not include the fines that are associated with the failure to have such vehicles removed promptly.

COs Jeremy Payne and Phil Hudson were on patrol when they pulled up alongside a vehicle parked on the shoulder of the roadway. The driver was coyote hunting and a loaded rifle was sitting on the front seat. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Wright was checking ice anglers on the Saginaw Bay one afternoon and made over fifty contacts. Three of those contacts resulted in tickets. Two of them were written for operating an ORV while licenses were suspended. The third was written to an individual who had three people on his ORV and none were wearing helmets.

After receiving several complaints about coyote hunters in Michigan's Thumb area, COs Seth Rhodea, Joshua Wright and Scott Brown teamed up and worked them with the use of an unmarked vehicle. Three groups were contacted with a shocked look on their faces. One hunter was ticketed for an uncased firearm and another was sent home for having expired plates and no insurance on his vehicle. The twenty-three year old with the expired plates excuse was that his mother must not have taken care of his plates since August. He was given an education of what it means to be an adult and enforcement action was taken.

CO Bob Hobkirk received a complaint from a subject who had witnessed a group of hunters along a highway and thought they weren't supposed to be so close to the roadway. The CO explained to the caller that the hunters could be there as long as they had permission from the landowner, but advised the caller that he would check the hunters to make sure everything was legal. When CO Hobkirk drove up to the hunters parked alongside of the highway, he observed an unzipped gun case in one of the vehicles. A closer inspection produced a loaded rifle in the vehicle. The hunter was issued a ticket for the violation.

COs Jason Smith and Seth Rhodea teamed up to work coyote hunters. During the patrol, the COs contacted several groups of hunters. Upon checking one group, three hunters were found with loaded and uncased firearms in their vehicles and all three hunters were ticketed. Within an hour of ticketing the first group, a second group was located. When contact was made with the hunters in the second group, loaded and uncased firearms were again found in several vehicles. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 7

One day while off duty CO Chris Simpson observed a snowmobile operating in a field without a valid trail permit. During his next patrol day, he observed the same snowmobile pass his patrol vehicle along a county road. After stopping the operator for

the permit violation it was established he also had a revoked driver's license. CO Simpson ticketed the snowmobile operator for operating while revoked.

CO Mike Mshar reported that a subject fled from him when he tried to stop him for not having a snowmobile trail permit. CO Mshar was able to track the subject and after a short distance contacted him. The subject became very aggressive toward CO Mshar and threatened the CO. CO Mshar contacted the Allegan County Sheriff's Department, and with their assistance calmed down the subject. The snowmobile was impounded and the subject was issued tickets for flee and elude and no trail permit. A warrant was also authorized for resist and obstruct an officer and the subject was lodged in the Allegan County Jail.

CO Gary Raak located an abandoned vehicle off trail in the Barry SGA. There was visible evidence that the subject had driven over small trees damaging state land and that the subject had driven behind a gate that was posted as closed to traffic. There were also numerous beer cans in and around the vehicle. As CO Raak was having the vehicle towed off state land, the registered owner arrived and explained that he had gotten the vehicle stuck the previous night. The subject was ticketed for operating off trail and for damaging state lands.

CO Chris Holmes received a complaint of three subjects hunting within the safety zone of a residence. CO Holmes located the subjects and found that two were hunting without small game licenses; the third subject had purchased a license but made a false statement to acquire it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Greg Patten was conducting an inspection of a taxidermist in Muskegon County when he observed an 11 point rack tagged with a license purchased opening day of the firearm season. CO Patten contacted and interviewed the hunter to learn he was in possession of two valid antlerless tags on that day and had just returned from an outstate trip where he had taken two other whitetail bucks. The hunter advised he simply forgot to purchase a Michigan deer or combination license until after taking the buck on opening day as he was so busy with his annual out of state hunt where he normally takes bucks every year. CO Patten requested a warrant charging the hunter with taking the buck without a valid deer license.

DISTRICT 8

COs Daniel Prince and Pete Purdy conducted ice fishing patrols on area lakes in Livingston County. Over fifty contacts were made with ice anglers. The violations included overlimit of panfish, largemouth bass out of season, and no name and address on tip-up.

CO Pete Purdy contacted an ice angler who didn't have his fishing license in his possession, the registration on his snowmobile expired in 2008, he operated the snowmobile on a suspended operator's license and he had a misdemeanor warrant for his arrest from 2006. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pete Purdy was in the area when a breaking and entering occurred and was phoned in to 911. CO Purdy responded to the location and assisted the township police officers in searching the area for the suspect, who was apprehended without incident.

CO Dan Bigger investigated a complaint resulting from deer season of a deer that may have been illegally taken and tagged with a family member's kill tag. Through phone calls with a CO in the U.P. confirming information regarding details surrounding the complaint, the case was moved forward and investigation conducted. After interviews with the subject and his wife, conflicting stories began to pile up, leaving them both unable to remember what untruths had been told. After over an hour of interviews, confessions were obtained, the firearm seized, and a warrant request is pending for several charges, including an illegal deer.

CO Dan Bigger swore to a two count warrant on a deer season case involving a subject who had gone out on opening day of firearm deer season. Statements from the subject indicated he did not think he would have a chance to take a deer and therefore didn't purchase a license. After shooting a buck, the subject decided to purchase his license and tag the deer to avoid being caught. Interviews with local hunters in the area confirmed when the deer had been shot, which was well before the hunting license had been purchased. The subject was presented with the facts and evidence surrounding the investigation and gave a full confession.

CO Rich Nickols contacted a group of six snowmobilers stopped on a county road. Out of the six snowmobiles, three were unregistered, two had never transferred ownership, five had no trail permits and all were trespassing. Tickets were issued.

CO Rich Nickols assisted the local police department with an investigation of reports of loud explosions in the township. After obtaining a possible suspect vehicle description, CO Nickols located the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop. Through a conversation with the driver, he was able to determine that several people had been target shooting with various weapons and with commercially manufactured exploding targets. It appears all activities were legal.

While checking ice anglers, CO Todd Thorn observed two subjects in a vehicle parked in a local lake access lot. CO Thorn recognized one subject from a previous arrest. The individuals were checked and the female subject was found with an open can of beer in the console beside her. She also had two outstanding warrants including one for a DNR violation that had occurred over a year ago. She was released on bond.

CO Shane Webster was checking anglers on a local area lake, and one subject who had earlier been observed fishing tried to state that he wasn't fishing, but finally confessed that he didn't have a fishing license, and that he had been fishing. A license check confirmed that the subject did not have a fishing license. CO Webster asked the subject how his deer season had gone and the subject stated that he had taken an antlerless deer and a date was given. The subject confessed to taking the deer early in the season, however, the only license he purchased was nearly two weeks later. The

subject then confessed that he had not had a license when he took the antlerless deer. Meat was seized from the subject and a complaint submitted to the prosecutor's office.

CO Shane Webster followed up on a tag that had been validated for an antlerless deer, taken the same day as the license was purchased. The license was purchased after hunting hours had ended. The subject confessed to his crime and stated he simply was confused on how licenses worked. An education was given and enforcement action taken.

CO Shane Webster followed up on the taking of a six point antlered deer during the firearm deer season. The subject was contacted and after a lengthy interview it was revealed that he had taken the deer three days prior to purchasing his hunting licenses. The subject had decided to buy a license for the deer because he wanted to use the cape off of the six point to get a mount done on another buck that he had shot four years prior. A complaint is being submitted to the prosecutor's office.

CO Shane Webster responded to a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint of a deer skull and antlers hanging from a tree in someone's yard. While attempting to make contact with the subjects a second set of antlers were found sitting outside on an outdoor grill. CO Webster contacted two subjects. The subject whose license was on the antlers on the grill stated that the other subject had taken that buck and a doe on opening day of firearm season. After being shown that his license was on the antlers, the man confessed that his friend had called him and asked him to buy a license for the buck and a doe he had shot. The second subject confessed that he had taken both the eight point buck and a doe on the opening day of season but had not purchased any licenses. He had called his friend to pick up licenses after taking both deer. A check of the "skull" revealed it was from a legal kill several years prior. A complaint is being sent to the prosecutor's office for the illegal taking of the eight point and the antlerless deer.

CO Kyle Bader had been receiving multiple complaints on a local trapper. CO Bader located several of his traps; some were on property the trapper did not have permission to be on and one had a live raccoon in it. CO Bader conducted surveillance for five hours and contacted the trapper. When he saw the CO he took two dead raccoons out of his truck and put them on the ground. The trapper was issued a ticket, his 13th in Michigan.

While watching anglers on Graham Lake, CO Jeff Goss observed as one subject caught a small bass and threw it on the ice. He watched for three hours as the trio continued to fish. Meanwhile a MSP trooper had noticed his truck parked in the same spot for several hours. The trooper decided to check on CO Goss and ended up having exceptional timing. The trooper showed up just as the trio gathered their stuff and exited the lake. CO Goss watched as they gathered an overlimit of fish and left several other fish on the ice as well as some litter. The trooper contacted the three subjects at their vehicles, which gave CO Goss the opportunity to collect evidence out on the ice. Upon joining up with the trio, one ticket was issued for littering and others for possession of an out of season bass, possession of a nine inch pike and an overlimit of panfish. Later

that day, CO Goss was advised by dispatch that the man he wrote three of the tickets to, was calling to explain that he heard that his brother and a friend had been fishing and that the friend had given the trooper false identification claiming to be the caller. CO Goss discovered that there was a third brother who had the same physical description and tattoos as the caller. The next morning the trooper was at the courthouse and recognized the subject as he ducked into an elevator. With only one way out of the courthouse, the subject was quickly apprehended. The trooper lodged the subject on the four misdemeanor warrants and a new charge of resisting and obstructing. CO Goss showed up at the jail a short time later and issued him three tickets for the charges from the day before plus one more for fishing without a license.

While on patrol, CO Jeff Goss came across a fifteen year old operating an ORV in the curves of an icy dirt road. The teen was towing his four year old brother and seven year old sister on sleds and none of them were wearing helmets. Upon stopping the teen, he advised that his parents probably didn't know where he was. CO Goss had him call his parents to come to the scene. The father was ticketed for allowing a minor child to operate an ORV unsupervised and verbally warned for multiple other violations and safety concerns. Everyone was transported back home safely.

DISTRICT 9

While checking anglers on Lake St. Clair, CO Todd Szyska contacted two subjects who had a few perch on the ice. During the check, one of the subjects stated his fishing license was at home. After some discussion and a computer check, the subject admitted he did not have a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Szyska was checking anglers near Geno's Surf when he observed two subjects attempting to get off the ice on their ORVs. Neither of the operators were wearing a helmet. When CO Szyska contacted the subjects, neither ORV had a valid license on it. One of the subjects had a suspended driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach and CO Ben Lasher made good use of the recent snowfall and conducted a snowmobile patrol on Anchor Bay. The COs made several contacts and issued 10 tickets for various violations. Numerous warnings were given for fishing without a license, operating too fast within 100 feet of a shanty, expired registrations, drag racing and no helmets.

CO Linda Scheidler received a complaint of subjects parking along roads and trespassing to get access to Pine Lake in southern Genesee County. When the CO arrived there were no vehicles; however, she did check a few anglers. One angler who was done fishing and heading back to his house was in possession of a 17 inch northern pike. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel investigated a juvenile for hunting without orange, unsupervised, and within a safety zone. The CO was able to make an illegal deer case on the subject. CO Kiel will be conferring with the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office on charges.

CO Todd Szyska received information that a subject who had a suspended driver's license and two passengers was operating an ORV on the ice and was headed to the Cotton Road access site. CO Szyska arrived on scene and walked out to the subject who was operating the ORV. Only the driver of the ORV had a helmet on. Further, upon speaking with the operator, CO Szyska could detect a strong odor of intoxicants on the subject's breath. The operator blew a .189 on the PBT and was taken to the local police department to be administered a breathalyzer test. The subject voluntarily submitted to the breathalyzer and blew a .21 BAC. The subject was taken into custody and lodged at the Macomb County Jail for ORV OUIL and operating an ORV while his driver's license was suspended.

While checking ice anglers in the evening near Cotton Road access, CO Todd Szyska happened upon three anglers coming off the ice. When asked to check the anglers' limits, CO Szyska found a nine inch largemouth bass in the bottom of one of the angler's buckets mixed in with perch. When asked about the bass the subject said he thought it was a perch. The bass was seized and enforcement action was taken for taking a bass during the closed season.

While on foot patrol in Captain's Cove Marina, CO Todd Szyska checked one angler who had his bluegill lying all over the ice. When the fish on the ice were counted with the extras in a plastic bag in the angler's bucket the total of bluegill ran up to 35. The subject's fish were seized and a ticket was issued for possession of an overlimit of bluegills.

Sgt. Arthur Green and CO Brandon Kieft responded to a report of an ORV that had gone through the ice on Cass Lake. While en route, the report was updated to add that a snowmobile had gone through near the ORV. There were no injuries and all victims returned to their homes to dry off and warm up. The ORV owner was working to remove the vehicle from the water when another ORV drove past. They started yelling at the driver and when he turned around to see what they were yelling about, his ORV went through the ice. The first ORV was removed by the owner, the second one was removed by a tow truck, and the snowmobile was recovered after divers attached flotation devices to it raising it to the surface.

CO Mark Ennett checked a pair of goose hunters who admitted that it was the very first time they had hunted waterfowl. Both hunters were using unplugged shotguns and one did not have a State or Federal Waterfowl Stamp. Both received tickets for the unplugged guns and the second hunter received warnings for the licensing violations. The first hunter requested a warning for his violation despite the fact that he had loaded four rounds in his shotgun and was fully aware of the lack of a plug.

CO Mark Ennett responded to a RAP complaint of a group of goose hunters who were shooting well past the legal hunting hours. CO Ennett arrived at the site within minutes and set up surveillance, but was unable to see any illegal actions. Upon contacting the group, one hunter had no Michigan small game hunting license. No other violations were observed, they denied the late shooting, and all the firearms were unloaded, cased, and put away. CO Ennett ticketed the one hunter for the license violation.

While checking hunters at Pointe Mouillee SGA, CO Dan Walzak observed a hunter walk up to his vehicle carrying a shotgun, get in his truck and begin driving slowly down the road. Catching up to the vehicle, CO Walzak asked the driver how he was doing and the driver initially claimed that he was trying to call his dog off of private property. The subject stated that he had been rabbit hunting but did not shoot any game. The CO asked the subject to exit his vehicle to check his hunting license. Because hunters are prohibited from possessing anything other than non-toxic shot shells on the game area, CO Walzak asked what kind of ammunition he was using. The subject answered that he was using steel shot and pulled two of them out of his left jacket pocket. Upon observing more shot shells in his right pocket CO Walzak requested to inspect them and the subject answered "Well, I'm not using these." A quick check revealed that his extra shells contained lead shot. When asked to present his shotgun the subject opened up the back door of his truck and CO Walzak observed the shotgun lying on the back seat without a case and loaded with four shot shells – two steel and two lead. To make matters a bit worse, the subject was in possession of a loaded handgun, and though he was a holder of a concealed pistol license, he failed to disclose this to the CO. Enforcement action was taken.

Responding to a report of a car in the water at Pointe Mouillee, CO Dan Walzak found the vehicle, a small SUV, nose first through the ice at the south end of the game area. Through interviews with the two female passengers, both stated that the driver of the vehicle stopped at the top of a launch ramp and asked his passengers what they thought about driving out onto the ice. Both of the passengers claimed that they thought it to be a bad idea but the driver proceeded down the launch ramp. The driver made it a little more than half a car length onto the ice when the vehicle broke through, submerging the front end of the car and causing the occupants to exit through the sun roof. The driver tried claiming that the car slid down the ramp but the tire tracks clearly showed that the tires were rolling when it reached the ice. The young driver's parents came to the scene, a wrecker was called and the car was towed out of the water. Miraculously, after the water was drained out of the passenger compartment of the vehicle, the car was able to be started and driven away.

COs Mike Drexler and Kris Kiel checked several ice anglers as they came off Lake St. Clair. One of the anglers stated that he forgot his driver's license and fishing license at home. The angler assured the COs that he purchased a fishing license, however a computer check revealed that the angler has never purchased a fishing license in Michigan. Enforcement action was taken.